



## From April 2024 (Volume 162)





Photo History



Cover Picture

We found lots of 'eggs' around Chelsea and some are featured later in in this volume

Spring is evident now with some days actually being sunny...wow. We are so busy with all our various commitments and a few examples are ; k

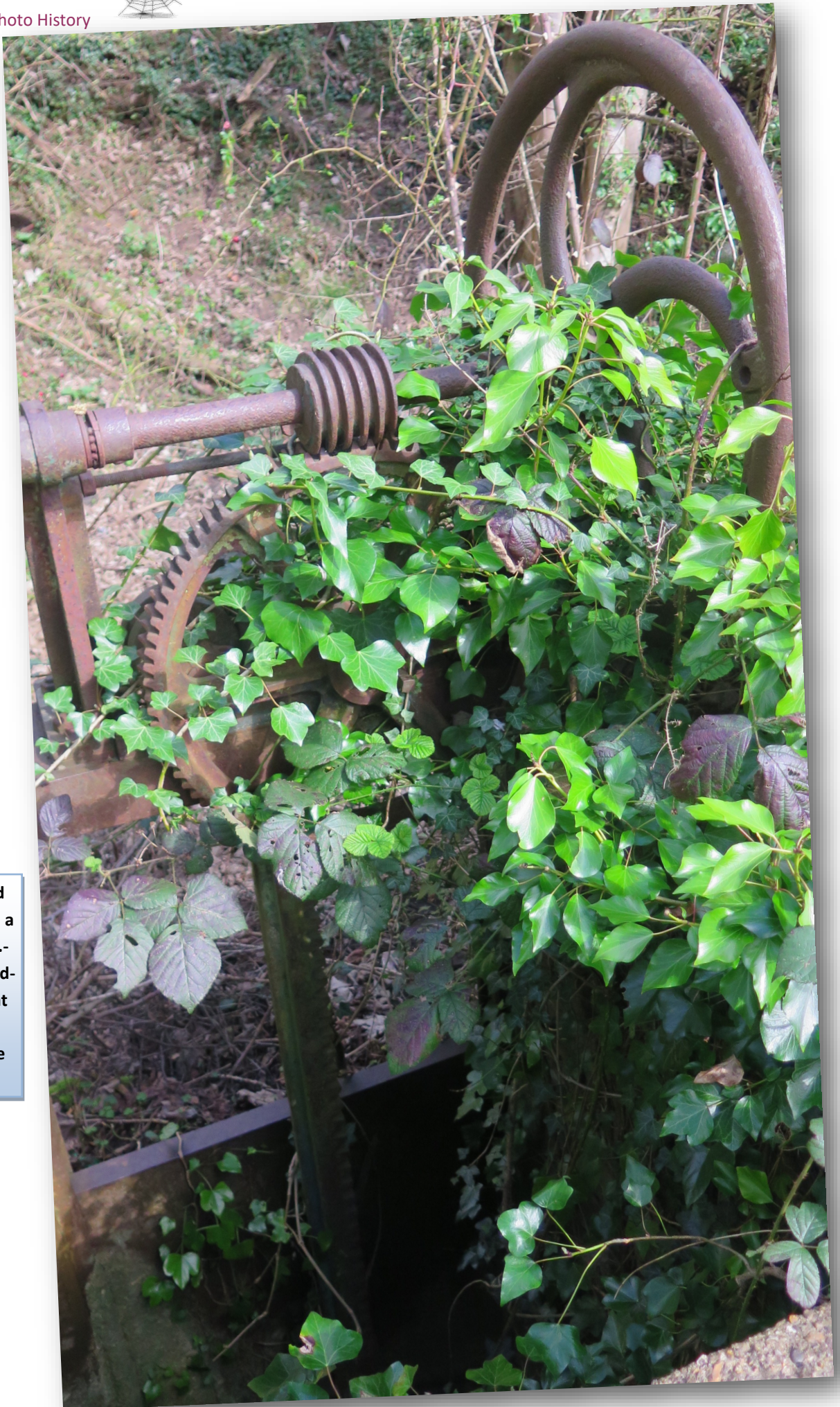
- Keeping these volumes current and this focuses me on keeping a record of everything that we find fascinating, mundane, interesting, controversial and stimulating. I always seem to walk around with my camera at 'the ready' and Lynn often points out things I would otherwise have missed...a perfect team. My thoughts are possibly controversial and in the fullness of time might be shown as being naive but they are my thoughts at the time of writing and maybe hindsight would have given me a different perspective. Who knows??.. it's easy to be wise after the event. I know I am guilty of making rash judgements but sometimes this immediate response is a good thing. Anyway, I'm too old to change now...and in the words of the immortal bard " I'm happy in my skin"
- Our tree-planting was becoming too strenuous in heavy mud and wintry days , especially after Lynn's morning run and my morning swim so we are waiting for better weather and may go back to doing some remedial tree-rescue work in better weather
- I'm involved in trying to set up a food-based workshop concept at The North London Hospice. This was after seeing a underutilised great kitchen at Barrowell Green and I'm having talks with the admin there to work out ideas.
- Lynn and I are also looking into being Compassionate Neighbours at the main Hospice site in Finchley but after a two day induction there. We realise it will be a decision that we must take careful stock of, as it involves terminally ill people with limited life expectancy so it will be a difficult decision
- I am also acting as a conduit for a large number of local organisations and people locally with the common aim to improve the look and style of Southgate. This involves greening areas in the high streets and building and maintaining parklets etc. I am involving both schools and council plus some really great people who think the same way about the environment as I do.
- My 'cow watching' at Forty Hall now has doubled its workload (4 cows now!) and as the weather improves and it becomes less of a mud bath I will visit them more frequently
- Daily swimming is now a firm habit and Lynn runs in the park and we encourage one another as it's so easy to turn over at 5.15am and 'go back to the land of nod'
- My swimming friends all join in a monthly trip to the garden centre at Crews Hill where we chat, partake of coffee and cakes and enjoy one another's company. We are a really diverse group...age wise and backgrounds and ethnicity...That's what makes life so special.
- Four of us meet at one another's houses for a quiz and chat and it has become a really great meeting of minds, chatter of irrelevant things and enjoying one another's company
- Add to this our Mystery Diner excursions commenting on service, food ambience etc at Farmer J units
- The 'Lads walk' is now a misnomer. None of us are 'Lads' anymore and even the word 'Walk;' is possibly stretching the use of that word to its limits. Anyway we all love our monthly 'hobble' ending in a pub of choice..
- Lynn and I have a great number of friends, acquaintances and love our *days out* together and *meals in* together. These friendships go back well over half a century in many cases

How on earth do we manage to fit all this in?????





## Photo History



This rusty old sluice seemed a great subject.- seen on a dried-up riverbed at Bengoe in Hertfordshire





## Photo History



**Larnie's last day at DeHavilland was sad, yet exciting, and as the messages show, she obviously made quite an impression.**

## DeHavilland political monitoring

The pace of politics is exhausting. A constant stream of data, reports, policies, speeches, stakeholders, stories and issues makes it hard to keep up with what matters to you.

DeHavilland political monitoring combines our in-house team's expertise with the latest AI technology to provide political data from thousands of sources. We cut through the noise to collate relevant updates and only provide you with what you need to know.

**Larnie,**

**From start to finish you've made everything come together and work. Thank you for your immense contribution, thank you for being a delight, and thank you for reminding me to eat.**

**Wishing you only the best in your next role - you will smash it, I have no doubt.**

**My best, always,  
Josh**

Hi Larnie, wishing you all the best on your next "gig", been a pleasure working with you....

**Ali**

## A card for Larnie Hur

from Josh Dell



It has been great working with you and just as great seeing how you've improved our content's impact - especially through making our briefings look a lot better! Best of luck for the new role and the future.

**Michael**

Larnie, we never had the occasion to work together, but I saw your name in the chat every day and I know how hard you worked to support the content team. Thank you for everything and all the best for your future career!

**Chiara**

It's been a pleasure to work with you Larnie. Best of luck in the new role :)

**Barney**

Thank you so much for everything, Larnie. It's amazing to think how your role started and how it's evolved, you've done fantastically and I really want to thank you for all your hard work. We wish you all the best in the future.

**Arran**

It was a pleasure to work with you on surveys, analytics, and some most recent charts to briefings. I will miss you a lot as you complemented Josh so much by being the bridge between 3 of us when it comes to the engagement data. I loved all the work you did to improve the style of our briefings! A truly proud achievement.

May the new role be a pleasure for you Larnie, wish you all the best!

**Vadim**



Dear Larnie,  
I'm very sorry you are leaving us. I can't thank you enough for having been such a pleasure to work with, and I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.  
All the best,  
Charlie d'Arcy

Bye Larnie!  
You may remember an Earlier request you made.

Long may it be said that  
Any such  
Request will be granted,  
Notwithstanding the effort  
I had to put in from start to  
End to manage it.

Jake

All the best in your new  
role Larnie. Pop in any  
time for a Diliotos!  
George

Good luck in you new  
job Larnie, its been  
fantastic to work with  
you and all the best for  
the future!  
Reece :)

Larnie, wishing you all the  
best in your new role, I am  
sure you will be fabulous!  
Grace

Larnie, it's been an absolute pleasure working  
with you. You bring such vibrant, positive energy  
and this will be so missed. Wishing you the very  
best in the new role, I know you'll smash it!  
Martha



The Last Day

Larnie I will miss working with you, you were  
absolutely amazing. Thank you for making  
DeHavilland content better. I wish you all the  
best for the future  
Ilias

Dear Larnie, thank you for  
making me sound smart in  
our notes. Wishing you all  
the best for the next  
steps.  
Chris

Larnie, thank you for  
all your help and  
making me a better  
writer! Good luck with  
you exciting new role.  
Tom

*It's been a pleasure  
working with you and  
learning from you  
Larnie! All the best in  
your new role- I'm sure  
you'll smash it!  
Emmen xx*

Wishing you all the  
best in your future  
role Larnie. It has  
been a pleasure  
working with you  
and seeing you grow  
at DeHavilland - you  
will be missed.  
Sophia







### Photo History

Tammy has just finished her induction at Enfield library and she is now starting volunteering at the Grief café every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 9.30-11.30am.

She will be doing Toddler Time 10-11hrs on Wednesday mornings, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> May. This is so great...

So brilliant that all the family are engaged in such a variety of diverse activities. It's what makes us 'different' from Mr/Ms Average, and I, personally, am quite happy with that label



DP has just returned from his annual Panama Festival Production and enjoyed , as always, putting on this very different production enjoyed by such a diverse group of people adding to his close friendships that makes it so difficult for him to leave at the end of the six weeks.

Some of his Panama and Guatemala photos follow on



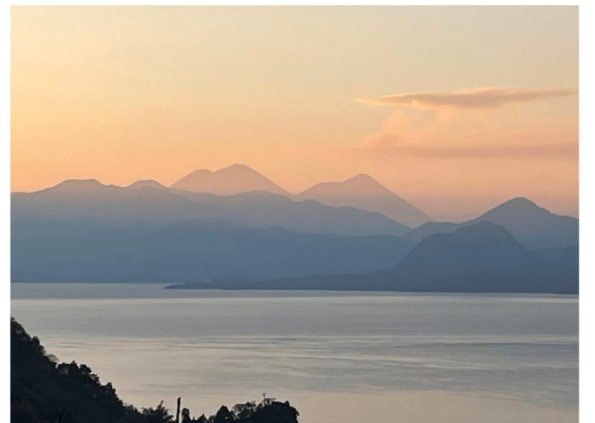




## Photo History



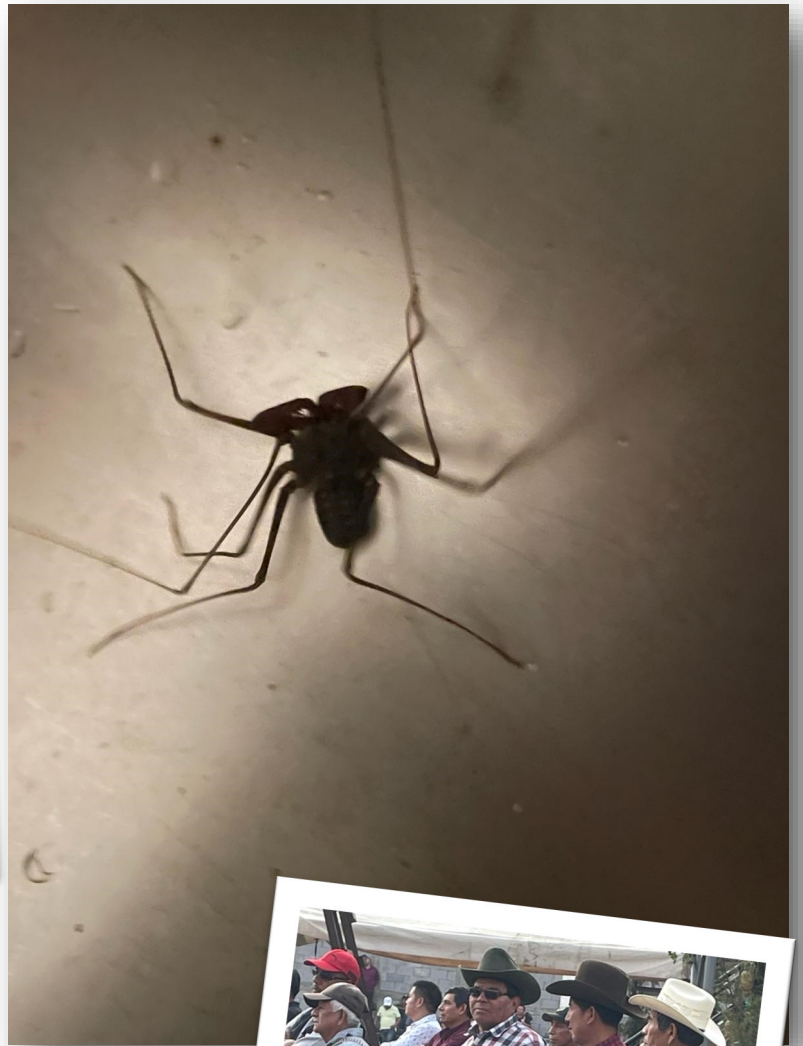
Just a 'taster'







## Photo History



Such a variety of places,  
people and memories...







## Photo History



Hello Jo, Hello Jo, Grovelands parkrun, Enfield results for event #649. Your time was 00:42:35. Congratulations on completing your 37th at Grovelands parkrun, Enfield today. You finished in 208th place out of a field of 216 parkrunners. You were the 52nd female and came 1st in your age category VW75-79. Your PB at Grovelands parkrun, Enfield remains 00:41:38. Congratulations on your fastest time this year.

Our 'Park run' results are sent across shortly after each race...

Lynn is so great. Every week, without fail, she beats me in the Park Run. 5km is no mean feat and I am so proud of her. We start together .....and I don't see her again until the end ...when she walks back to accompany me to the finish..



Returning to the streets of Chelsea for Easter, the "Little Egg Hunt" is back with a trail of egg-ceptional art, featuring 12 giant, elaborately designed eggs scattered throughout the neighborhood from Pont Street and Sloane Square to Pavilion Road and Duke of York Square.

Once again spearheaded by Royal charity Elephant Family, in partnership with Clarence Court, the much-loved egg-shaped sculptures are a celebration of art, philanthropy and Easter merriment.



Isn't it great when art is available in the streets, for no other reason than public enjoyment..

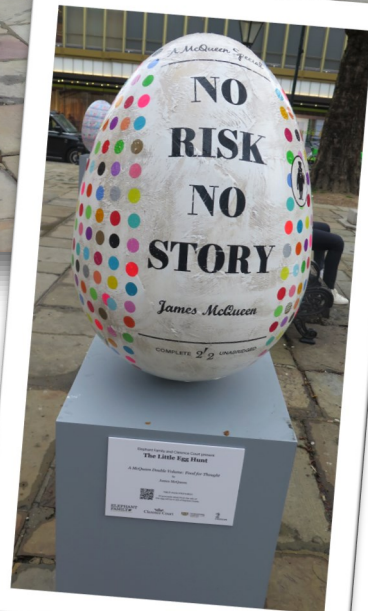










Photo History







Also on the cover  
of this volume





London skyline and architecture is constantly changing. I guess the consensus of opinion is 'it's a change for the worse', but every major city changes and evolves constantly and that is what makes it so vibrant. Thinking about it I am sure that all the 'sight's 'that tourists come to see, and marvel at, were totally unacceptable when they were built. The city and docklands high rise towers look fascinating when viewed from the Enfield Ridgeway in the green belt.

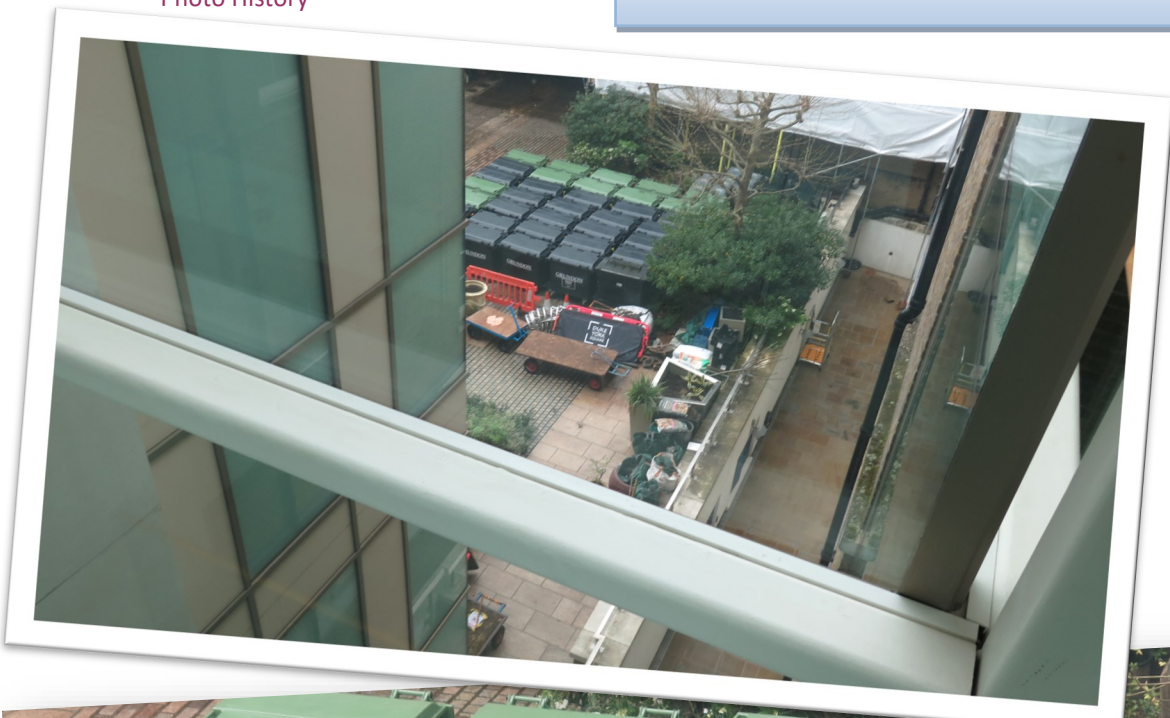


Fairly new trains and the hidden signs of an old railway system and even some foliage surviving against all odds





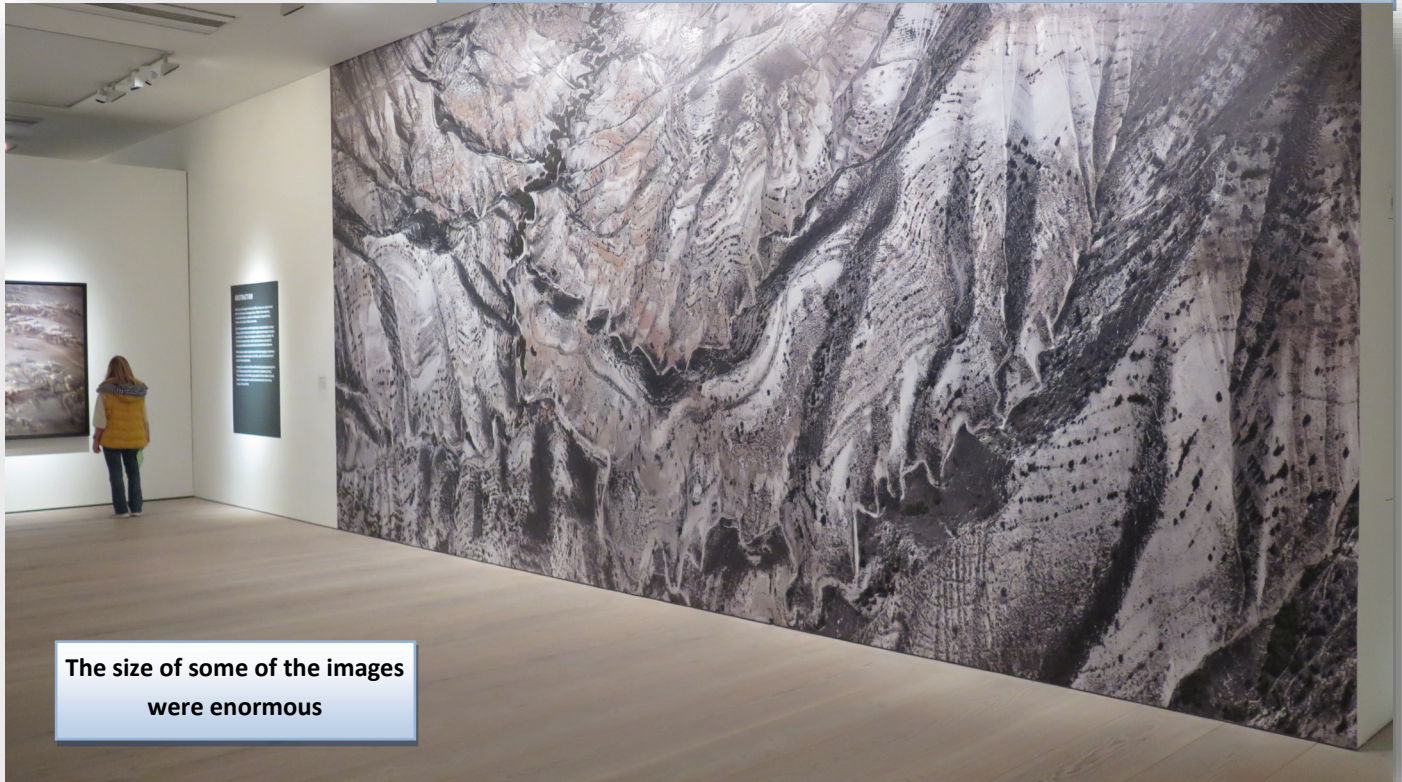
Coming down the staircase at The Saatchi Gallery we spotted these containers that seemed to make a n artistic statement







Joan recommended us to see the Burtinsky photography exhibition at The Saatchi Gallery, saying "it's just your sort of work"...When we saw it, I was so flattered by her words . The insight and incredible work over a long period by the photographer were astounding and artistic. . I make no apologies for the large number of images that follow... (Guess I should have bought the catalogue!).



The size of some of the images were enormous

## ABSTRACTION

Abstract art emerged in the early 20th century as a radical break with the old ways of making pictures. Rather than depicting recognisable figures, objects or landscapes, it explores form, texture, and colour for their own sake.

Over the same period, industrial agriculture, mass production, surface mining, and the internal combustion engine also emerged, changing our way of life. Today, technology continues to take us rapidly into the future in every sector, while machines move us across the same great distances that electronic communication dissolves.

While modern artists invented new emotional languages, industrialists were busy manufacturing a new reality, alien to the natural world and far from sustainable.

Among the curiosities of Edward Burtynsky's gripping photographs is his frequent play with the conventions of abstract painting. These works can be initially appreciated for their abstract beauty before revealing them as sites of human toil and, in too many cases, of human folly.

### Erosion Control #1, Yeşilhisar, Central Anatolia, Türkiye, 2022

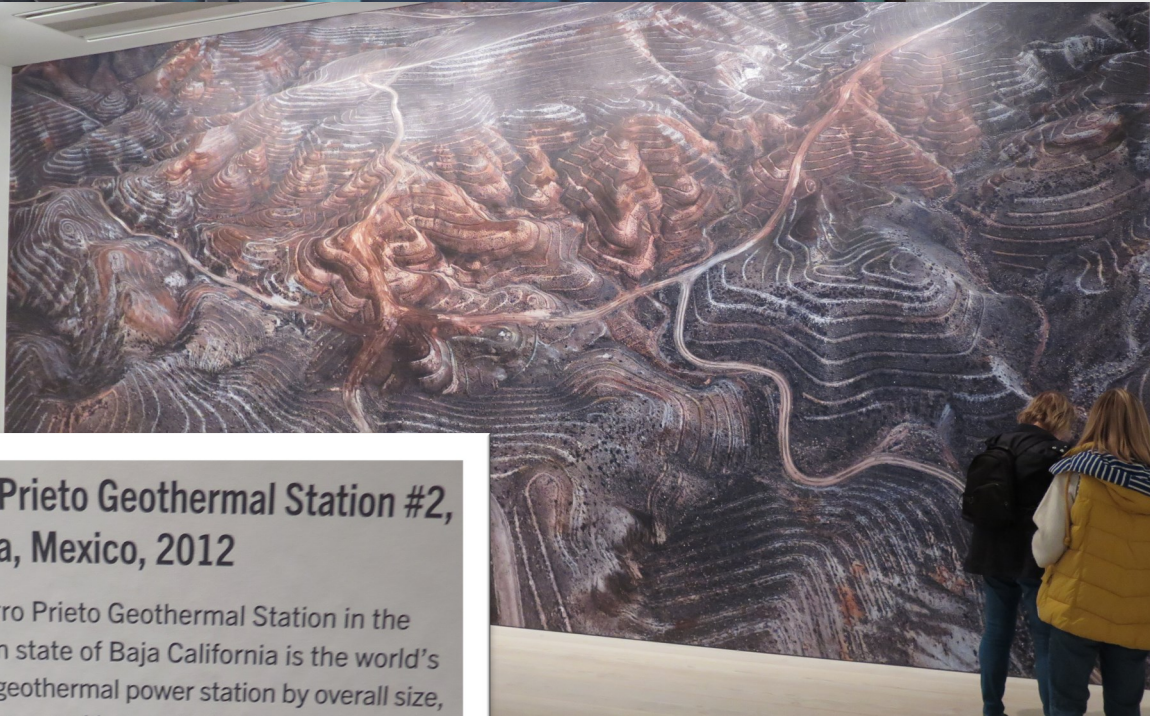
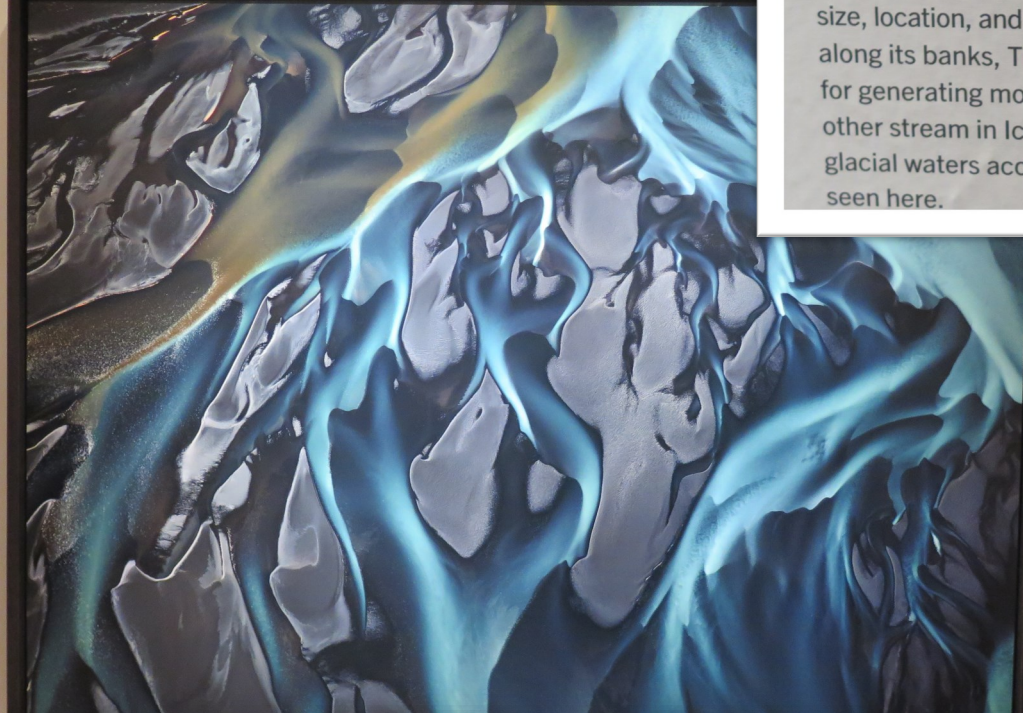
Because of its elevation and the overall effects of global warming, Türkiye is at constant risk of topsoil erosion and desertification. With agriculture representing an important part of the country's economy, ambitious terracing programs such as this are essential for both water and soil conservation and increasing crop yields across hilly farmlands.





## Thjorsá River #1, Southern Region, Iceland, 2012

Running through the south of Iceland, Thjorsá River is the country's longest at 230 kilometres. A glacier river, Thjorsa originates in the Hofsjökull, an ice-capped but active volcano. Because of its size, location, and the number of power stations along its banks, Thjorsá River is responsible for generating more electrical power than any other stream in Iceland. Volcanic silt in the glacial waters account for the surreal colours seen here.



## Cerro Prieto Geothermal Station #2, Sonora, Mexico, 2012

The Cerro Prieto Geothermal Station in the Mexican state of Baja California is the world's largest geothermal power station by overall size, and the second largest by energy output. The Station harnesses the power of hot volcanic water, pumping it into a power plant where the thermal energy is transformed into electricity. Excess steam from the process gets condensed into hot, highly corrosive, mineral-rich water that is then deposited into the 18-kilometre-long solar evaporation pond seen here.





## Blasting Holes #1, Orapa Diamond Mine, Botswana, 2019

Resembling a grid pattern associated with modern art, these are regularly-spaced drill holes that will be filled with dynamite and exploded to facilitate diamond extraction. The looped video shown in this room demonstrates this process. The dynamite is detonated all at once, fragmenting the rock which is then sifted for diamonds. The waste material from this process is then deposited into giant tailings ponds nearby.



We noticed that the carpet in the gallery was taken from the video film and was very effective







## **Dryland Farming #21, Monegros County, Aragon, Spain, 2010**

As if imagined by the artist and founder of the art brut movement, Jean Dubuffet, this weirdly graphic landscape represents a form of agriculture that relies on a more sustainable use of water by working with the natural cycle of wet and dry seasons, and by planting drought-resistant crops. In spite of the region's extreme temperature fluctuations, its saltwater lagoons and minimal rainfall, it remains one of the most biodiverse in Europe. More recently, large-scale irrigation systems have been introduced, drawing freshwater from nearby reservoirs in the Pyrenees. While irrigation addresses drought conditions, local farmers remain concerned about the long-term impact that increasingly high temperatures will have on their livelihoods.





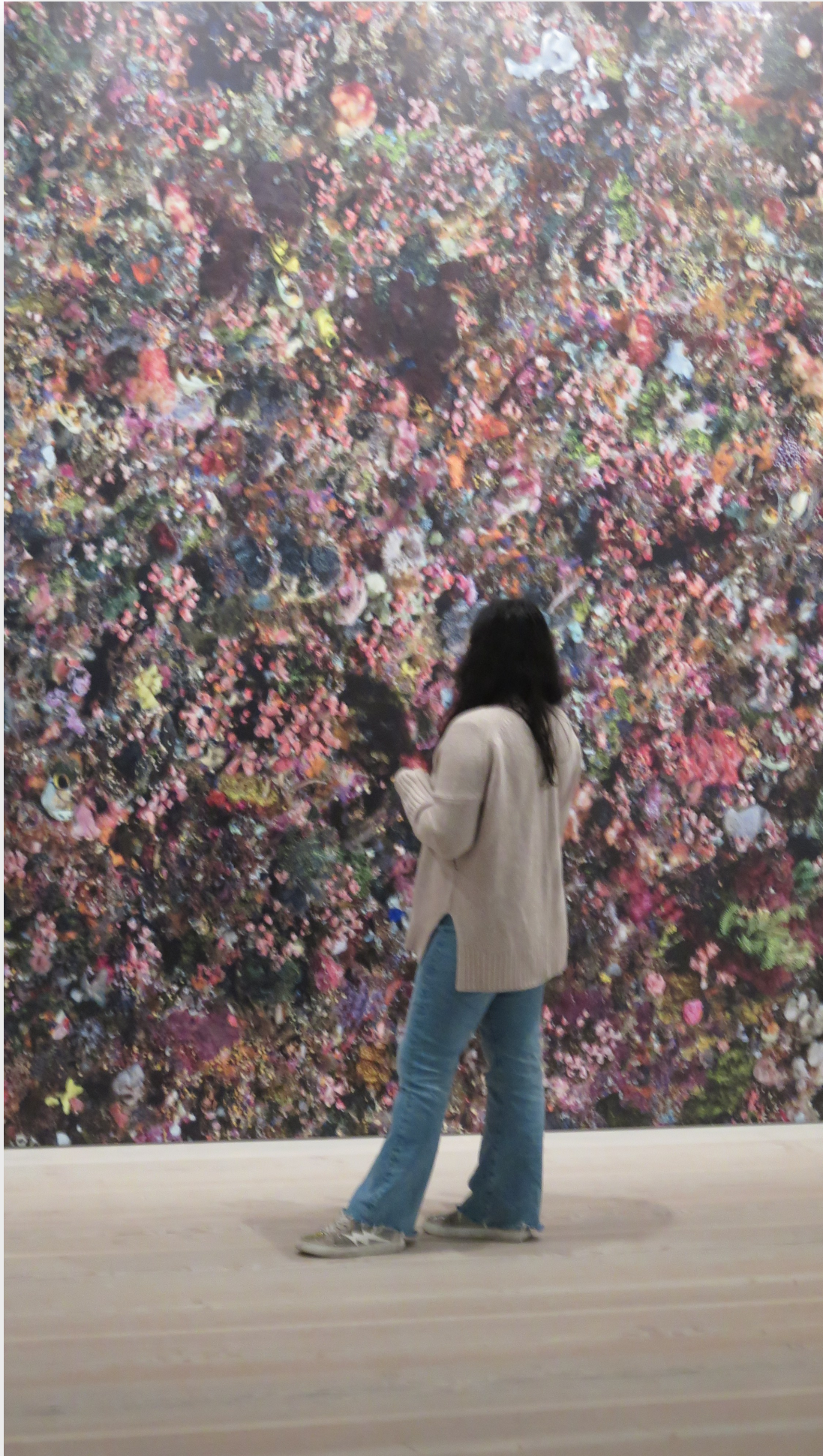
I am only a fraction of the way through these fantastic images..by far the most fascinating exhibition we have seen for ages..

## Salt Lakes #6, Bird Tracks, Yarışlı Lake, Burdur Province, Türkiye, 2022

This turquoise saline lake in southwestern Türkiye attracts about 140 different species of migratory birds, including large flocks of flamingos. They come to feed on the nutrient-rich alkaline water and leave behind the filigree patterns of their steps. These will be washed away when the weather begins to cool and the lake fills with water again. The site of ancient Tymbrinassus, a Greek colonial settlement from the 6th century BCE, sits on the lake's eastern shore. The water's unusual milkyiness is due to runoff from the many marble quarries in the surrounding area.











# AGRICULTURE

There are over eight billion people on our planet and we all need to eat. Approximately 75% of the global population regularly eats meat, which corresponds to roughly 23 billion equally hungry animals kept as livestock. Adding up all of the people, livestock and pets, global agriculture must feed over 31 billion hungry creatures every day. Consequently, about 38% of Earth's land mass is now farmland.

As our population grows, so does our need for food and for the land to produce it. This comes at a huge cost: mass cutting down of ancient forests; depletion of aquifers to irrigate farms on arid land; the seeping of toxic pesticides and fertilisers into the environment; and the constant emissions of greenhouse gases at nearly every stage of food production.

Burtynsky's photographs show us the character and scale of this industry today, along with its unfamiliar forms. His interest in agriculture has drawn him to some of the stranger examples of the industry — the vast geometric carpets of centre pivot irrigation, the surreal textures of dryland farming, and the great monochromatic expanses of monoculture. His pictures reveal the astonishing resourcefulness of our ability to grow food, as destructive as some of those practices are.





## Polders, Grootschermer, The Netherlands, 2011

The Netherlands, or “low countries,” gets its name from its flat topography, a quarter of which falls below sea level. These low areas are known as polders, many of which are reclaimed marshlands and flood plains separated from the sea by a system of seawalls, dykes and sluices. Polders are a testament to human ingenuity in the face of complex agricultural and settlement challenges.





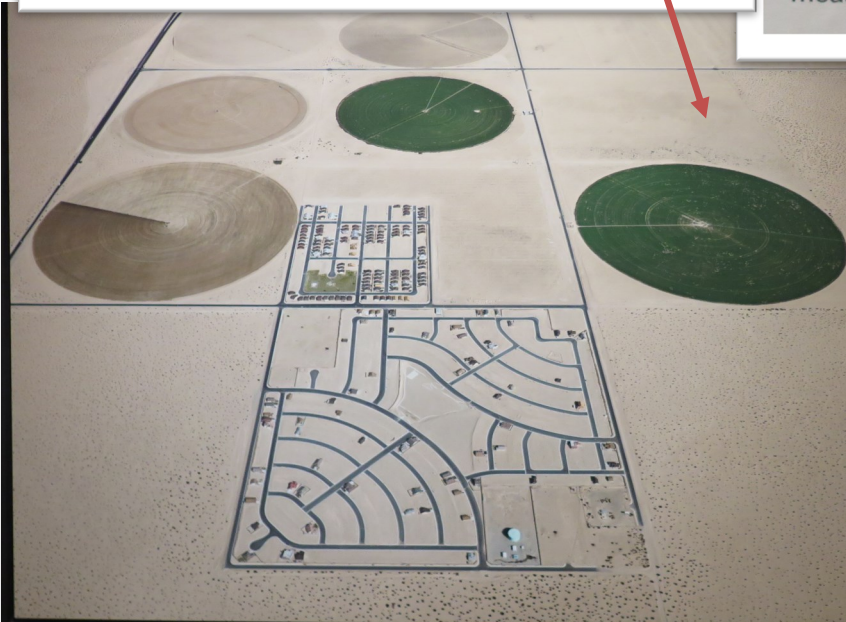


## Pivot Irrigation / Suburb, South of Yuma, Arizona, USA, 2011

This sparse suburb on the edge of Yuma shares its arid plain with neighbouring farmland. The giant circular crops are watered by motorised pipes connected to a central pivot where water is pumped up from an aquifer deep underground. While common in US agriculture, such farming methods are unsustainable due to the ongoing depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer, which will take many thousands of years to replenish.

## Grape Farm #1, Lutzburg, South Africa, 2018

Known for the table grapes it exports internationally, most of the farms in this semi-arid region are found along the Orange River, the body of water that irrigates them and on which the vineyards are entirely dependent. This large square, however, is a few kilometres north of Lutzburg, where the land is parched and hilly. In water-scarce South Africa, water use is constantly measured to improve efficiency.







### Greenhouses, Almería Peninsula, Spain, 2010

The greenhouses of sunny Almería yield between 2.5 and 3.5 million tons of fruits and vegetables annually, making them responsible for much of Europe's off-season produce. Now one of the world's largest concentrations of greenhouses, this practice was started by farmers in the 1960s who experimented with different techniques to protect crops from wind and salty groundwater. Unfortunately, success has meant the heavy use of chemicals, the depletion of deep-well water for irrigation, and a staggering rotation of clear plastic.

### Rice Terraces #3ab, Western Yunnan Province, China, 2012

This sustainable farming method has been practised in China for nearly 1,500 years, and covers some 20,000 hectares of land. When done properly, it prevents erosion, retains moisture, and can support the biodiversity necessary to keep soils fertile. It is also a clever way to take advantage of the region's mountainous topography and abundant sunlight. The Yuanyang Terraced Fields make up the core of the Honghe Hani Rice Terraces, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013.







## Pivot Irrigation #7, High Plains, Texas Panhandle, USA, 2011

The greatest users of centre pivot irrigation systems in the world are American. There are over 30,000 of these systems in use across the Texas High Plains alone, covering approximately 4.5 million acres of cropland, most of which is dedicated to either corn or cotton. The revitalisation of America's "Dust Bowl" is largely owed to the invention of the centre pivot in the 1950s by a Nebraska farmer named Frank Zybach.



## Greenhouses #4, Sher Farms, Ziway, Ethiopia, 2018

Afriflora Sher operates the world's largest rose farm, a greenhouse complex in Ethiopia spread across three locations of approximately 450 hectares in total. The largest of the farms, pictured here, is on the shores of Lake Ziway. Up to 4 million roses are cut and shipped each day from here, destined for the European market. The farms employ a closed-loop system where artificial wetlands filter wastewater to recycle for continuous irrigation.







## Clearcut #1, Palm Oil Plantation, Borneo, Malaysia, 2016

The third-largest island in the world, Borneo is home to one of our planet's oldest rainforests, which is rapidly disappearing to accommodate agriculture. An ecology that consists of over 150,000 native plant species, nearly 400 bird species, and a large diversity of mammals, in recent years it has become an important global source for tropical lumber and palm oil. Demand for palm oil in particular is increasing for use in everything from processed foods to cosmetics. More and more of Borneo's rainforests are cut down every year to make room for single-crop plantations.

"Generally speaking, my work at this point can be divided into two areas of concentration — industries that process nature (fish farms, mining, logging...) and splendid nature herself. In this work I am to shed light upon the interface between man and nature...obviously man must appropriate land and kill for food in order to survive. My loose position is that although this is true, man's methods have alienated him from his environment and he must be careful with his treatment of it."

Edward Burtynsky

Journal entry, October 1983

which is rapidly disappearing







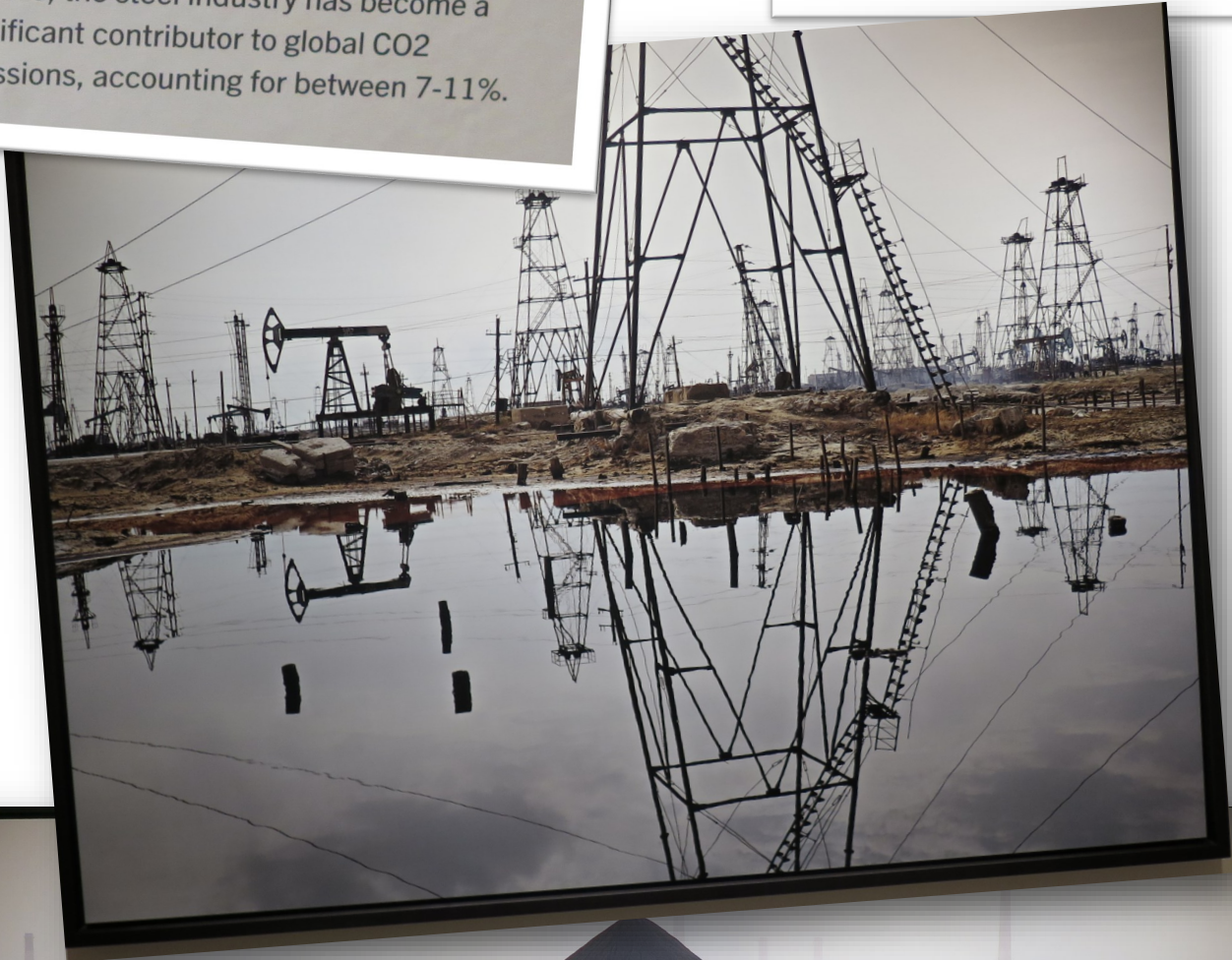
Photo History

## Bao Steel #8, Shanghai, China, 2005

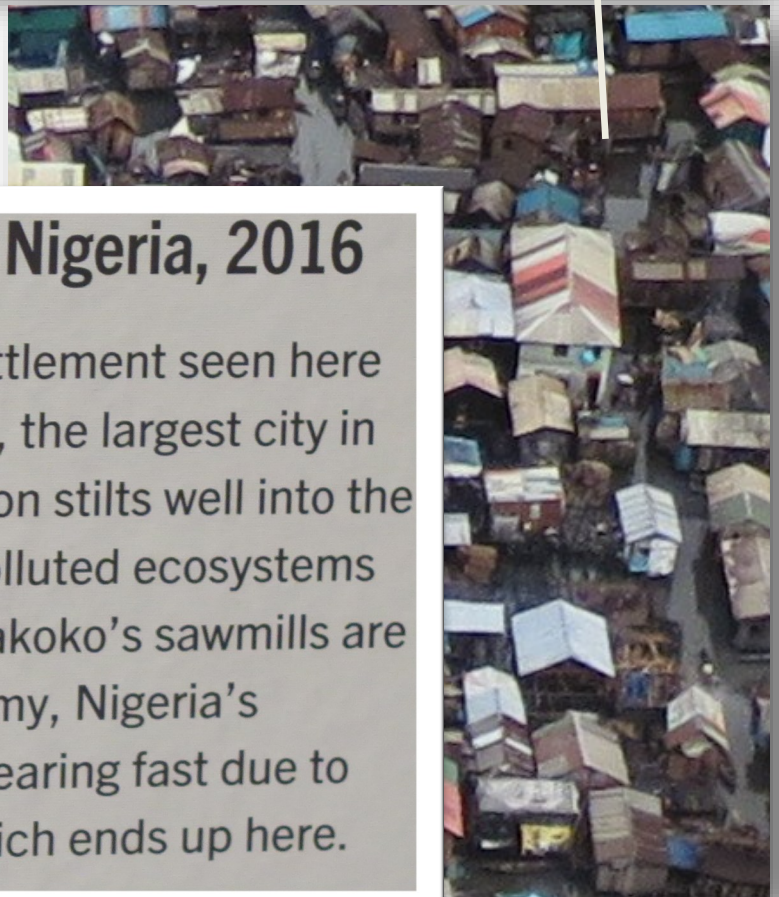
These mounds of coal were used to fire up the blast furnaces that we see in the distance. Baowu, the parent company of Baosteel, is the largest steel producer by volume and produced nearly 132 million tonnes in 2022. Due to an increase in demand over the past decade, the steel industry has become a significant contributor to global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, accounting for between 7-11%.

## SOCAR Oil Fields #3, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2006

Azerbaijan is an oil-rich country. In fact, according to the International Energy Agency, oil, gas and related products account for approximately 90% of the country's export revenue. The State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) is a state-owned monopoly. Along with the pumpjacks seen in this elegant mirror-view shot, SOCAR also operates the country's only oil refinery and multiple offshore drilling platforms in the Caspian Sea as well.







## Saw Mills #2, Lagos, Nigeria, 2016

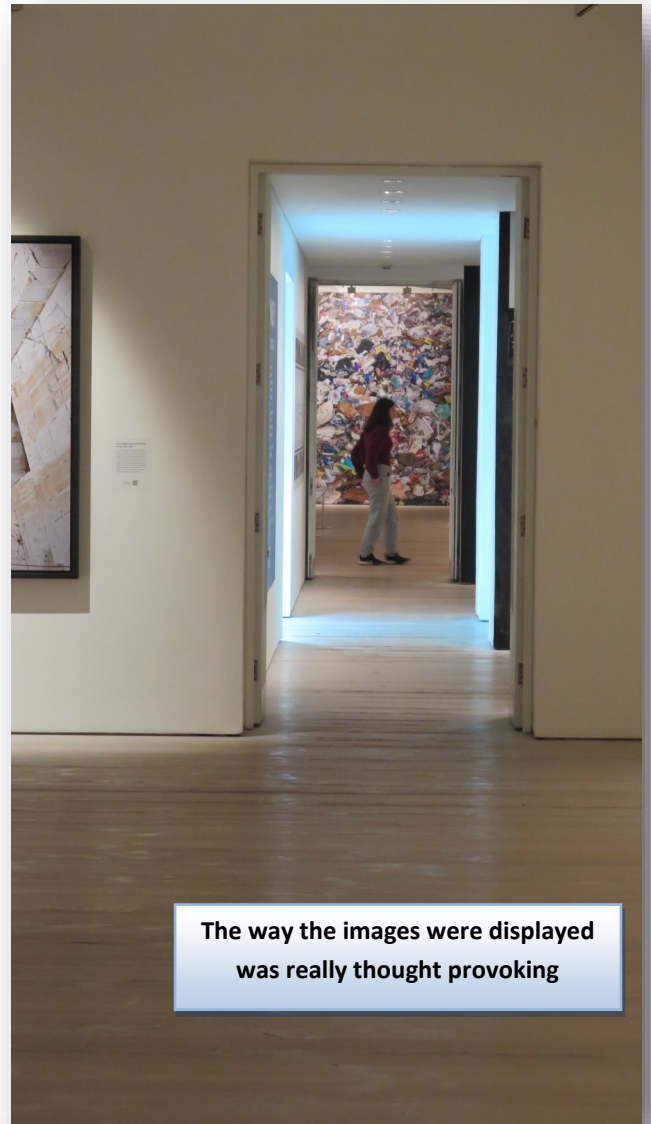
Makoko is the informal settlement seen here on the east coast of Lagos, the largest city in Africa. A third of it is built on stilts well into the lagoon, one of the most polluted ecosystems on the continent. While Makoko's sawmills are integral to the local economy, Nigeria's lowland forests are disappearing fast due to illegal logging, much of which ends up here.





## MP Materials #6, Mountain Pass Mine, Mountain Pass, California, USA, 2023

Abundant in the Earth's crust, rare earths are a set of 17 metallic elements, some of which are very difficult to extract in high concentrations. They are notably essential to the technologies responsible for global electrification. The neat rows seen here are obsolete, or worn-out mining equipment kept for spare parts. Uses of rare earths include magnets, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent and LED lighting, digital cameras, and glass manufacturing. Mountain Pass mine is the only rare earth facility currently operating in North America.



The way the images were displayed was really thought provoking







## Rock of Ages #15, Active Section, E.L. Smith Quarry, Barre, Vermont, USA, 1992

Established in the 1880s, and at approximately 600 feet deep, Rock of Ages is the world's largest 'deep hole' granite quarry. The stone mined here is known as 'Barre Gray' granite for nearby Barre, Vermont. Used primarily for headstones and mausoleums, its fine grain is also popular with sculptors.







## Sapphire Mining Settlement #1, Sakaraha, Madagascar, 2019

This impromptu village is thoroughly pock-marked with deep, narrow pits dug by hand to extract sapphires. Like much of the sapphire mining across Madagascar, the artisanal operations here are unregulated and extremely unsafe. Because many of the gems are found below the water table, people and animals regularly fall to their deaths down the unprotected pits that can reach up to 50 metres in depth.

To show the way the locals live, I extracted this telling shot from the main photo here







## Chuquicamata Copper Mine Overburden #2, Calama, Chile, 2017

This is the largest open-pit copper mine by volume in the world, and the second deepest at approximately 850 metres. Accounting for nearly 30% of the world's copper, Chile is the largest exporter of this extremely useful metal. In 2019, the mine began transitioning away from its open-pit operations to make the shift to underground mining which will extend production for another 40 years.

The symmetry and beauty of this shot speaks volumes and yet it is a terrible scar on earth's surface

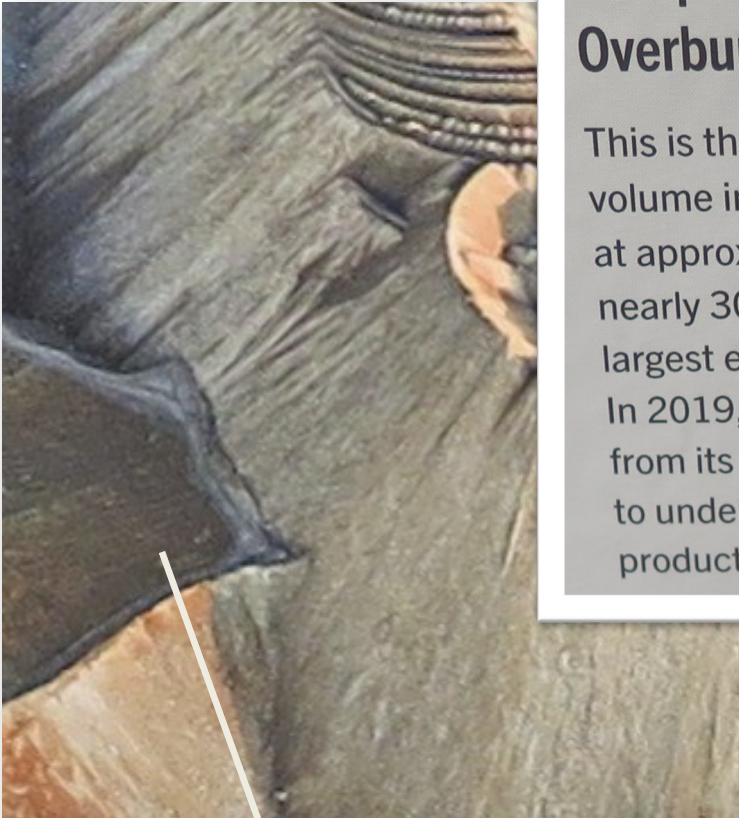






Photo History

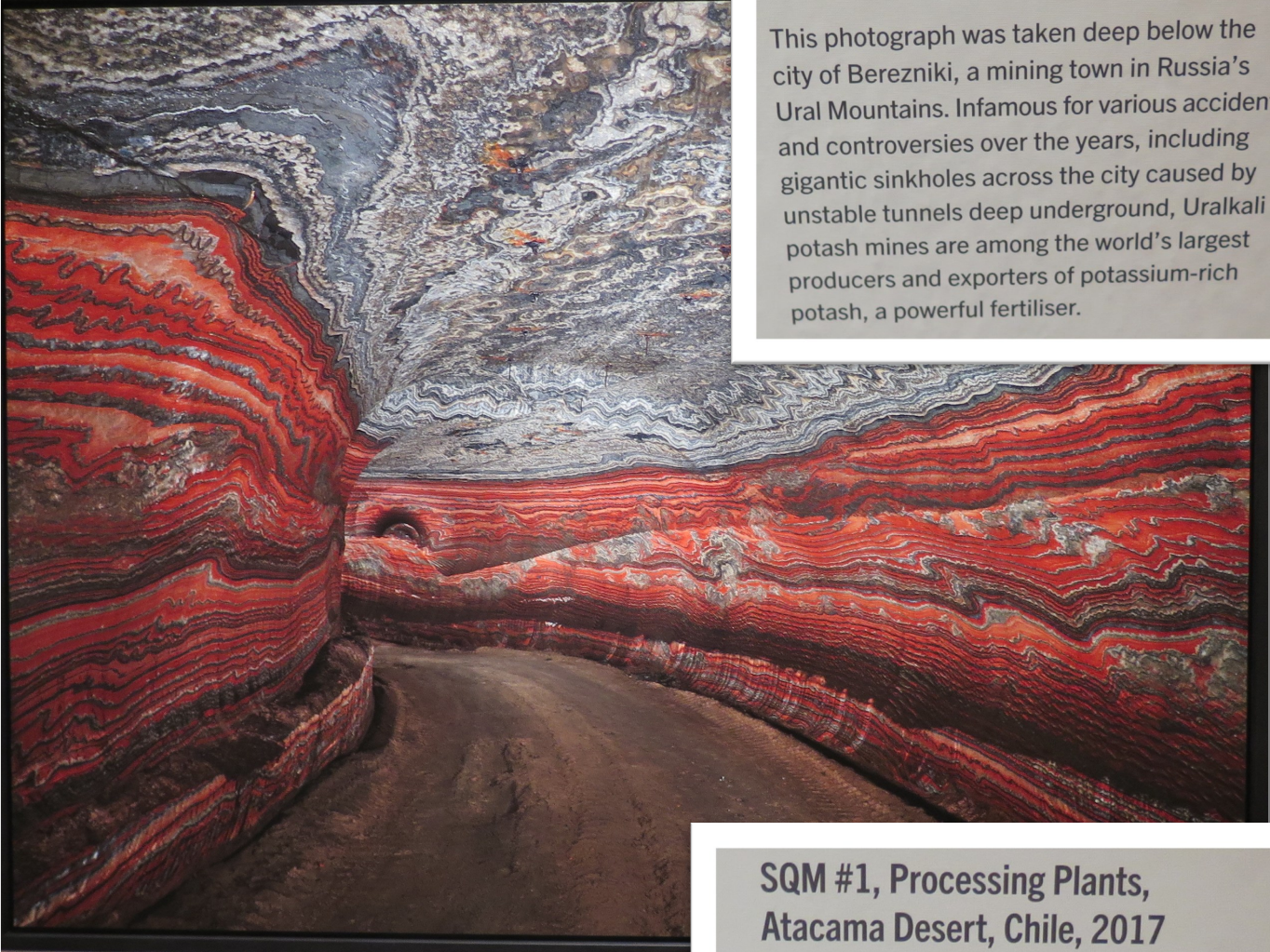






## Uralkali Potash Mine #2, Berezniki, Russia, 2017

This photograph was taken deep below the city of Berezniki, a mining town in Russia's Ural Mountains. Infamous for various accidents and controversies over the years, including gigantic sinkholes across the city caused by unstable tunnels deep underground, Uralkali potash mines are among the world's largest producers and exporters of potassium-rich potash, a powerful fertiliser.



## SQM #1, Processing Plants, Atacama Desert, Chile, 2017

The lithium mined in Salar de Atacama is extracted from brine pumped up from beneath the crust of this salt flat. It is then deposited into the ponds seen here, where the dry and windy desert conditions facilitate rapid evaporation. The varying shades of turquoise in the ponds are due to changes in lithium concentration as evaporation proceeds. The concentrated salts left behind are then processed to extract lithium carbonate. Fertiliser is a by-product of this process, shown here covered by blue tarpaulins. The reddish tarps cover a higher-grade of fertiliser.

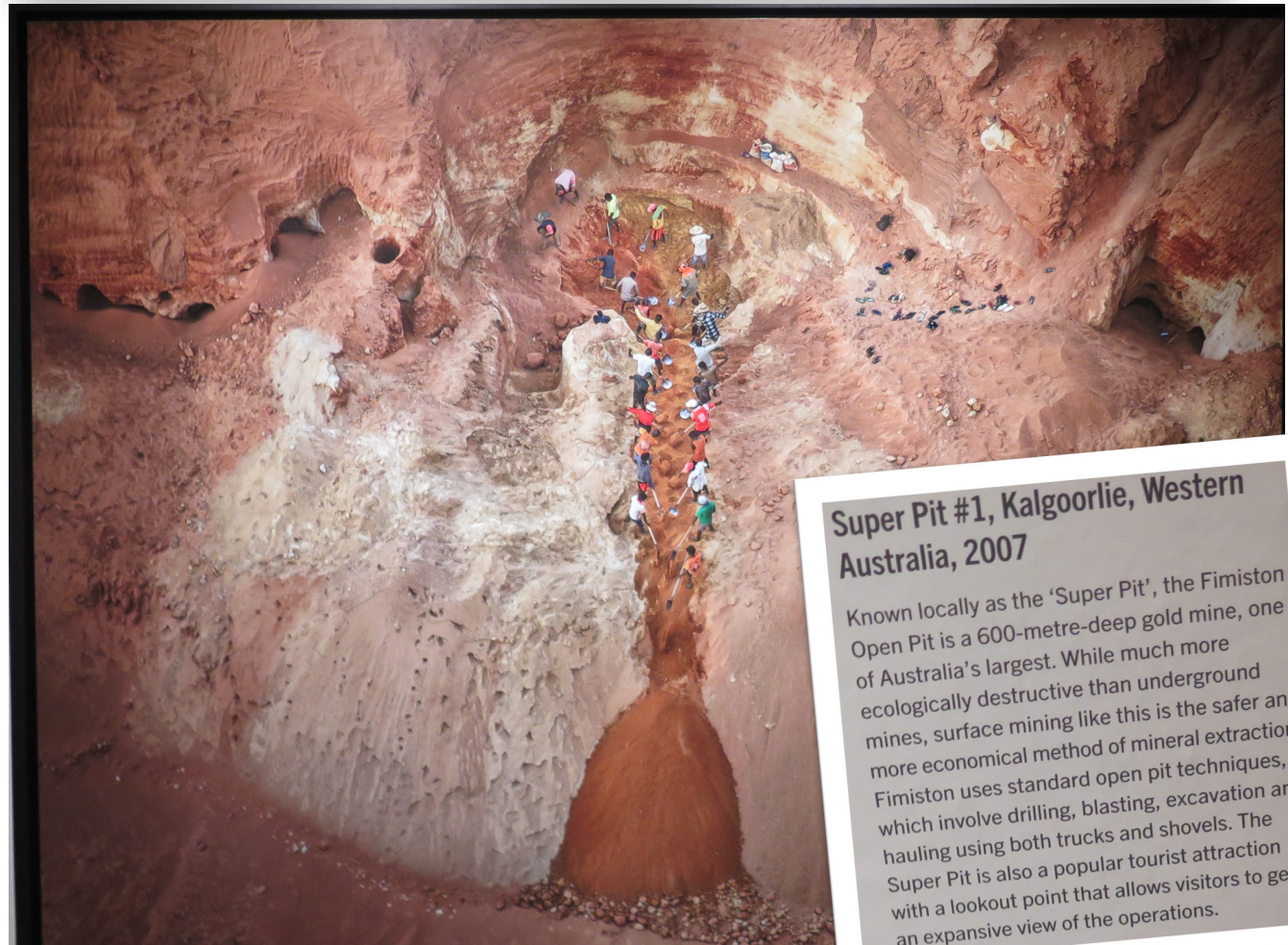
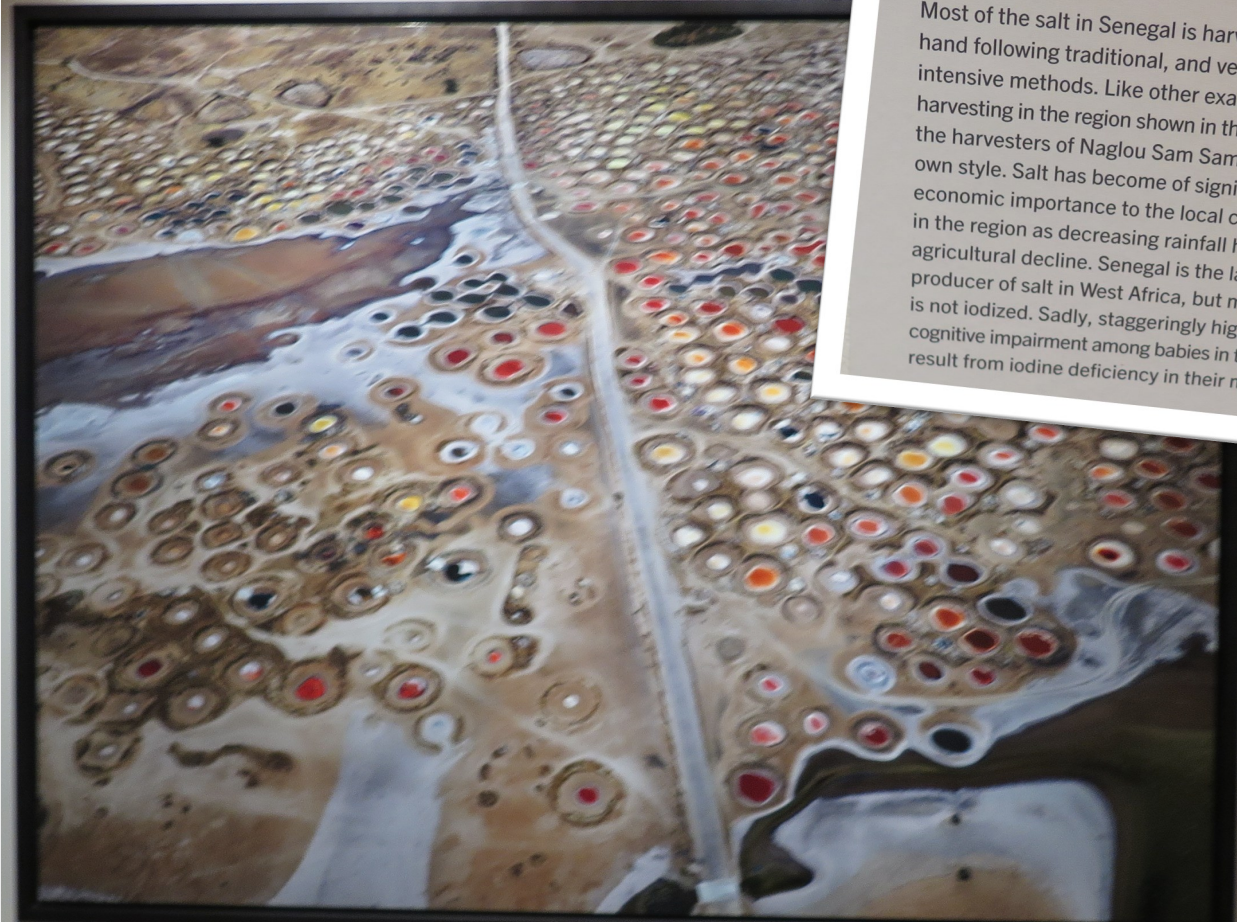






### Salt Ponds #4, Near Naglou Sam Sam, Senegal, 2019

Most of the salt in Senegal is harvested by hand following traditional, and very labour intensive methods. Like other examples of salt harvesting in the region shown in this exhibition, the harvesters of Naglou Sam Sam have their own style. Salt has become of significant economic importance to the local community in the region as decreasing rainfall has led to agricultural decline. Senegal is the largest producer of salt in West Africa, but much of it is not iodized. Sadly, staggeringly high rates of cognitive impairment among babies in the region result from iodine deficiency in their mothers.



### Super Pit #1, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, 2007

Known locally as the 'Super Pit', the Fimiston Open Pit is a 600-metre-deep gold mine, one of Australia's largest. While much more ecologically destructive than underground mines, surface mining like this is the safer and more economical method of mineral extraction. Fimiston uses standard open pit techniques, which involve drilling, blasting, excavation and hauling using both trucks and shovels. The Super Pit is also a popular tourist attraction with a lookout point that allows visitors to get an expansive view of the operations.





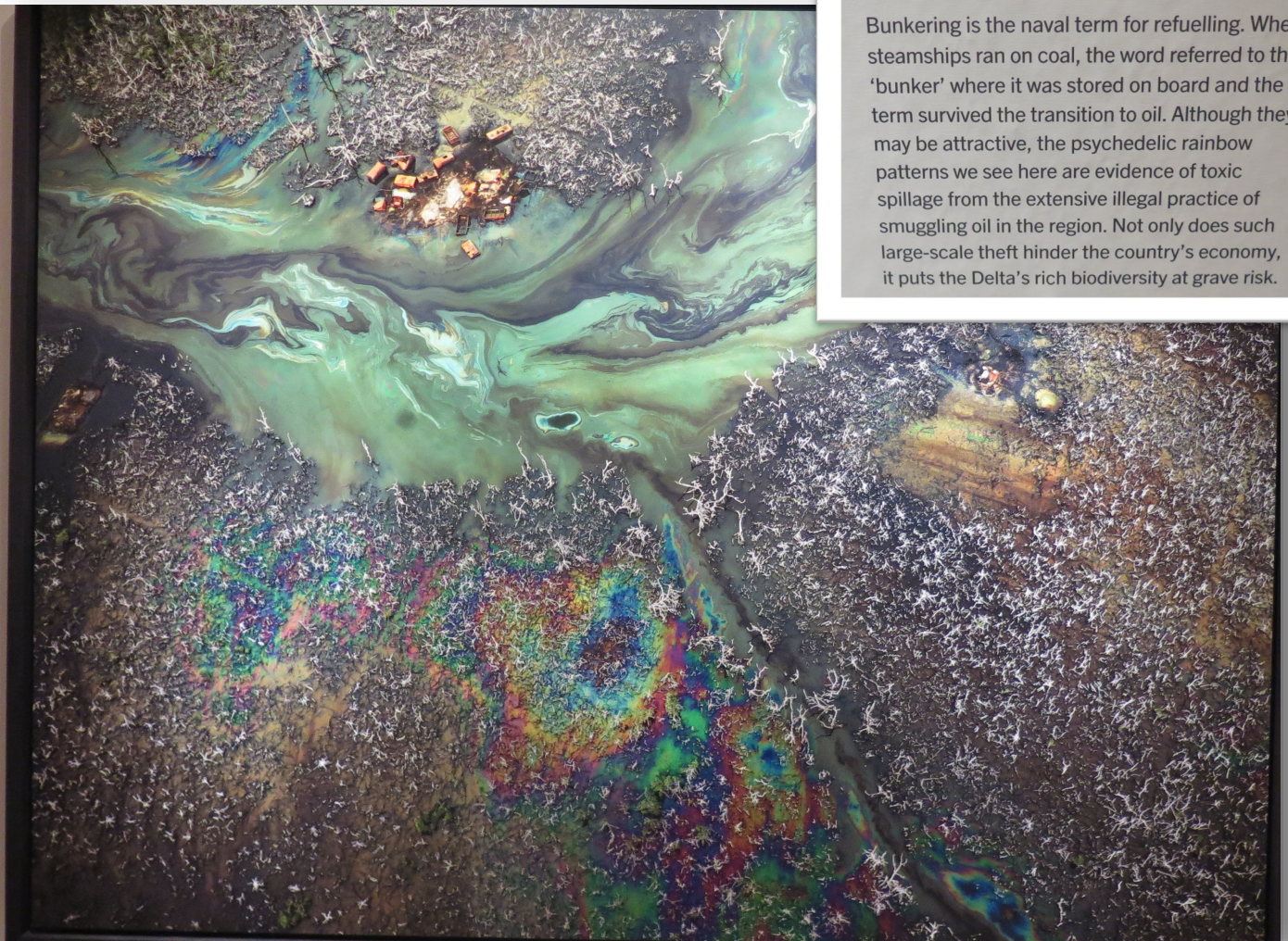
## Ilakaka Sapphire Mine #1, Ilakaka, Madagascar, 2019

Madagascar is the world's largest producer of sapphires where they are mined mostly by hand in the region of Ilakaka. Small-scale artisanal miners face unsafe and physically challenging conditions. Due to the lack of organisation and infrastructure of these sites, environmental damage, deforestation, illegal operations and theft are also common. Following the discovery of sapphires at this location in 1998, the population soared from a few dozen residents to nearly 60,000.



## Oil Bunkering #9, Niger Delta, Nigeria, 2016

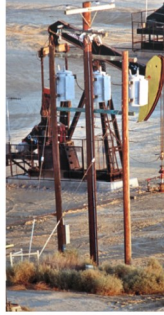
Bunkering is the naval term for refuelling. When steamships ran on coal, the word referred to the 'bunker' where it was stored on board and the term survived the transition to oil. Although they may be attractive, the psychedelic rainbow patterns we see here are evidence of toxic spillage from the extensive illegal practice of smuggling oil in the region. Not only does such large-scale theft hinder the country's economy, it puts the Delta's rich biodiversity at grave risk.





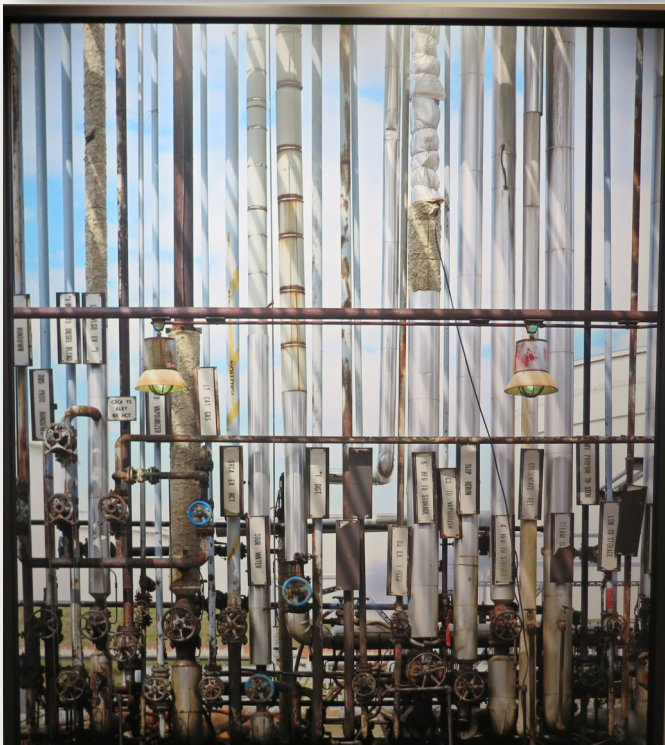


## Photo History



### Oil Fields #19a & #19b, Belridge, California, USA, 2003

California produces more than 460,000 barrels of oil every day, most of it from the San Joaquin Valley where the Belridge oil field is located. Founded in 1911, it is one of the state's major producers and accounts for about 80,000 of those daily barrels. That may sound impressive, but the state actually consumes 1.8 million barrels a day, requiring it to import about 75% of what it burns. Pumpjacks, or "nodding donkeys" like those scattered across this field, are a common extraction equipment in California.



### Oil Refineries #3, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, 1999

The Oakville Oil Refinery was established in 1958 with an initial production capacity of 25,000 barrels per day. A relatively small and specialised refinery, at its peak, it employed around 350 people and produced 90,000 barrels daily. Before it was decommissioned in 2005, the operation produced a variety of petroleum products including gasoline, distillates and asphalt for the Ontario market. Following its closure, a local study demonstrated improved air quality and reduced respiratory hospitalisation in the region.







## Shipyard #11, Qili Port, Zhejiang Province, China, 2005

Unlike the boats in Burtynsky's Shipbreaking series photographed in Bangladesh, this one is being built rather than dismantled. China is the largest producer of ocean vessels and this port in Zhejiang is known for its shipyards where an estimated 200 commercial ships are manufactured annually. As much as 90% of the world's goods are transported by sea and a good deal of both the merchandise and the ships originate in China.



# MANUFACTURING & INFRASTRUCTURE

For generations, we have satisfied most of our wants and needs with the assistance of machines. Increasingly, it is humans who assist the machines and they need us less and less. An important aspect of Burtynsky's work concerns manufacturing, from its intensive use of labour in China and its subsidiaries abroad, to German car plants in South Africa where robots do most of the work. What factories do not produce, they process.

Burtynsky grew up around factories. His father worked in an automotive assembly plant, where Burtynsky would eventually work too in order to pay for tuition fees. The immensity of industrial operations — what Burtynsky has called the "industrial sublime" — has fascinated the artist since childhood.

Infrastructure consists of the bridges, dams, roads, sewers, electrical and telecommunications grids, etc. that are necessary to the operation of our societies and economies. Infrastructure controls water, transports energy, expels waste and deals with weather. Many of Burtynsky's photographs focus on infrastructure, a theme he has explored in series as disparate as the Railcuts of 1985, right up to his African Studies of 2022. If our habitat is his overall subject, its increasingly artificial nature is his ultimate message: we have reshaped the Earth to suit ourselves.

## Breezewood, Pennsylvania, USA, 2009

The place pictured here looks like countless identical stops throughout the US Interstate Highway System. An unofficial hamlet of under 2,000 inhabitants, Breezewood is known for the density of fast-food restaurants, truck stops, gas stations and motels that make it either a "traveller's oasis" or "tourist trap," depending on your perspective. To capture this view, and include as much of the commercial signage as possible, Burtynsky used a lift mounted on a truck parked on a hill.







### **Xiaolangdi Dam #1, Yellow River, Henan Province, China, 2011**

While hydroelectric dams such as this provide clean electricity, flood control, drinking water and farmland irrigation, these large-scale projects also come with a significant environmental and human cost. Since 1949, it is estimated that approximately 12 million people across China have been displaced due to dam construction, and at least 200,000 people were resettled for the development of this dam specifically. Pictured here is the annual silt — a solid, dust-like sediment made up of fine bits of clay and sand — release, a spectacle that draws tens of thousands of visitors to watch 30 million tons of silt be discharged.

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### Spirit AeroSystems, Boeing 737 Fuselage Assembly Plant, Wichita, Kansas, USA, 2018

Although Boeing is based in the State of Washington, components for its aeroplanes are manufactured around the world and shipped to Boeing for final assembly. Spirit AeroSystems in Kansas, an important Boeing supplier, is among the world's largest manufacturers of aeroplane bodies, or fuselage, as seen in this image. Roughly 100,000 flights take off every day leaving fossil fuel exhaust in the lower atmosphere.



Sometimes the size of the images makes it easy to overlook the constituent parts and this example shows what could easily have been missed







## Container Port, Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2011

An enormous extension to the largest port in Europe, Maasvlakte is built on land reclaimed from the North Sea. It was designed so that the largest ocean-going vessels can exchange cargo with trucks, trains, riverboats and pipelines. About 90% of goods are transported by ships, and nearly all of them run on 'dirty' fossil fuels that cause climate change and acidify our oceans.

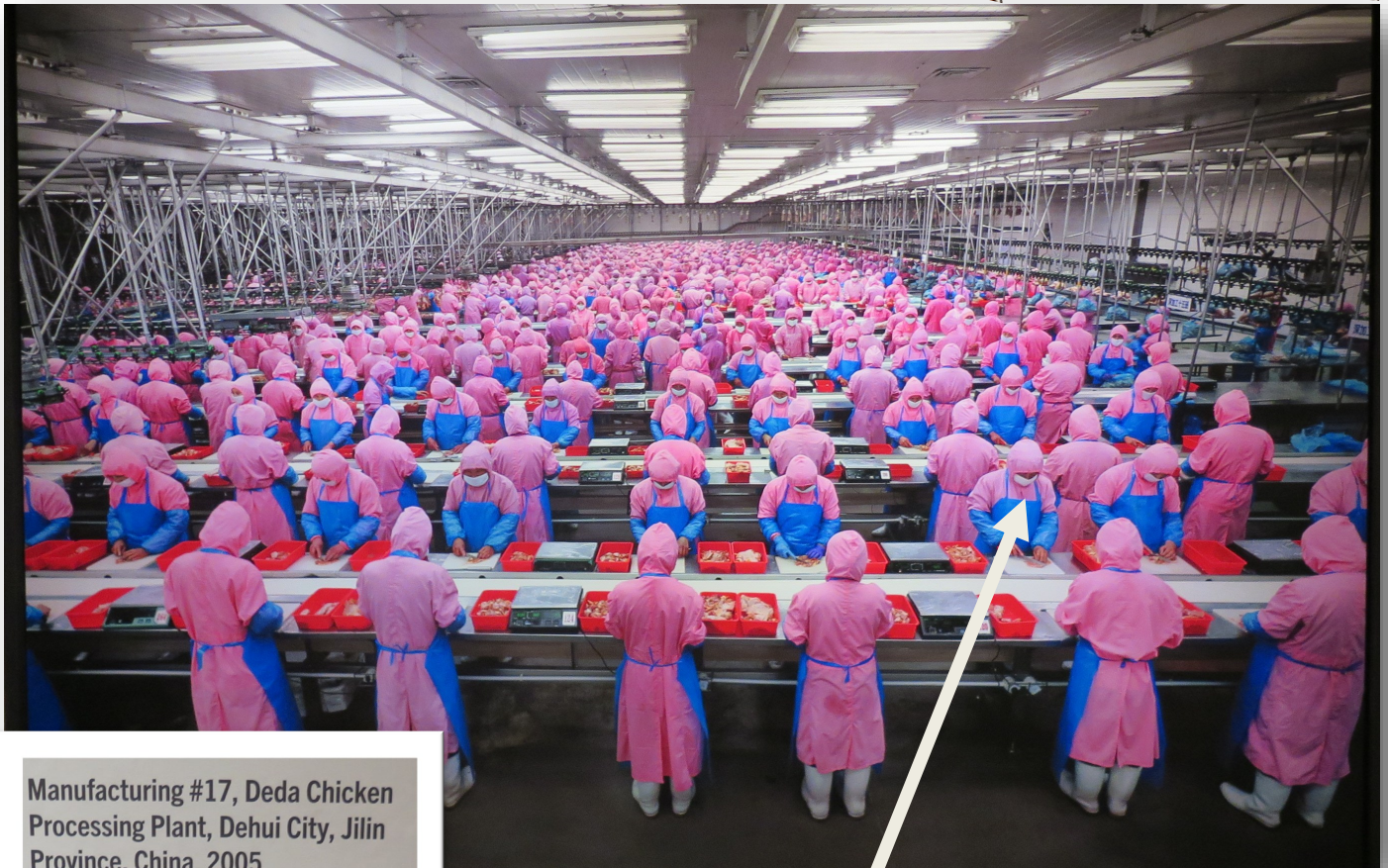


## Manufacturing #10a & #10b, Cankun Factory, Xiamen City, China, 2005

Small home appliance manufacturing, from coffee machines to steam irons, is an important industry in both Fujian and Guangdong Provinces. It took two days to shoot this diptych, an unusually long session, in order to achieve the greatest depth-of-field and maintain focus as far back as possible in this enormous room in Fujian. Each panel required ten long exposures and the cooperation of all the workers. A horn was blown and everyone froze to the count of 10 in whatever position they were in. The best shots from each side were used to create the final picture.







**Manufacturing #17, Deda Chicken Processing Plant, Dehui City, Jilin Province, China, 2005**

Burtynsky spent a considerable amount of time in China in the early 2000s, documenting its then booming manufacturing sector, among other themes. Food processing is a very big business in a country of 1.4 billion people, 80 percent of whom are meat eaters. In 2013, a fire broke out at a poultry plant in Dehui City similar to the one pictured here. 120 people lost their lives while many others were injured. China's once grim safety record has since improved considerably.

Possibly a good reason to give up eating chicken forever







Where art or photographs (like these) are really so fantastic I make no apologies for including them in my Photo History volumes



## BMW Assembly Plant #1, Rosslyn, Pretoria, South Africa, 2018

Machines do most of the work in this factory. About 75,000 car bodies are produced here every year, destined for export markets around the world. Although this is technically impressive, with more than 32% of South Africans unemployed, extreme automation is obviously not socially helpful. How we handle the looming human toll of progress is as important as controlling its environmental impact.





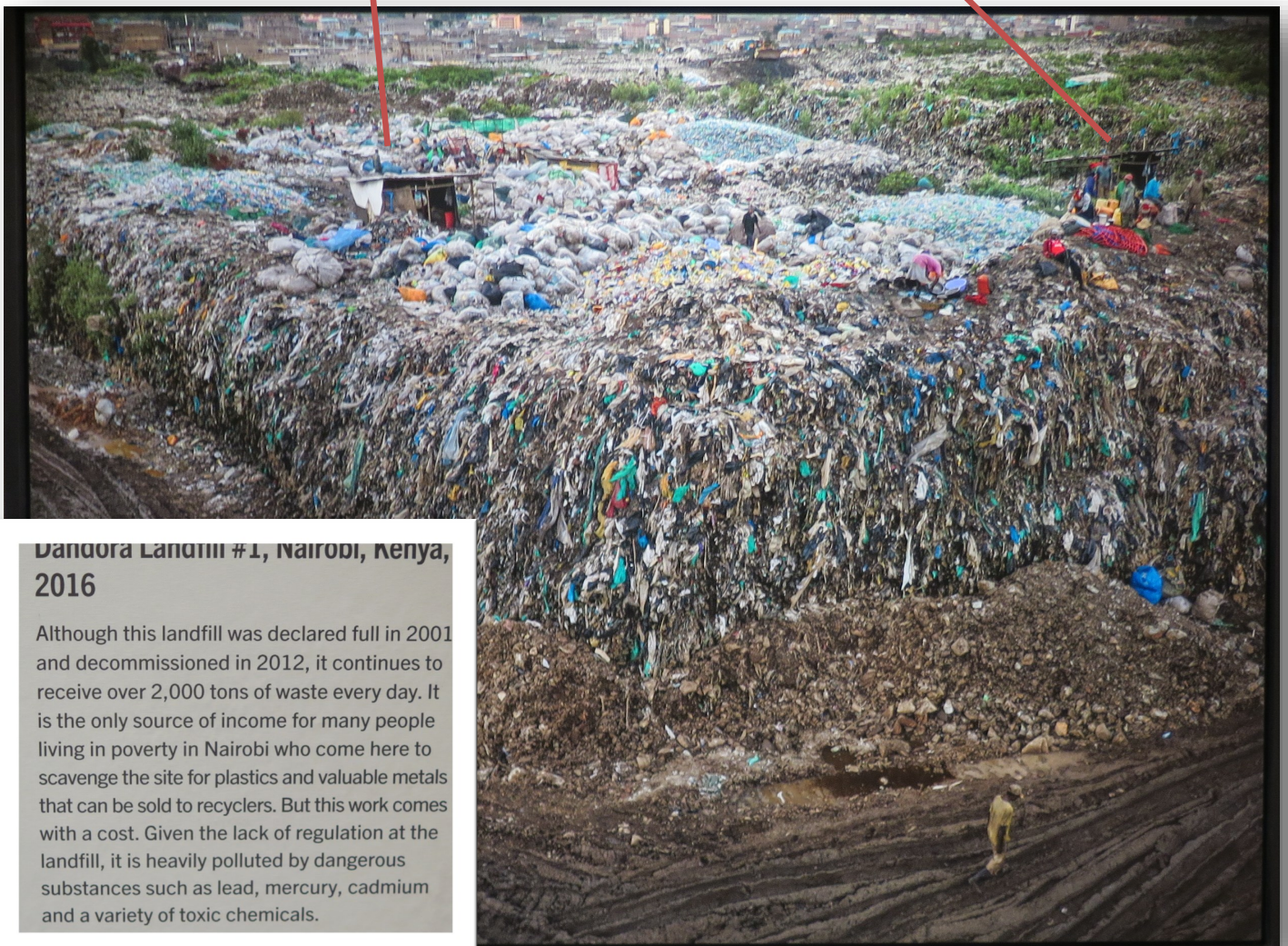


## WASTE

From food to ocean liners, nothing we produce disappears entirely once we discard it. It is either transformed into something else — preferably something good — or it stays the same indefinitely. We say that “good” waste is biodegradable and won’t harm nature. But, unless it is properly oxygenated, even compost will produce methane, a hazardous greenhouse gas.

Waste management has been a problem since prehistory and we only seem to get further away from solving it. The continued viability of our planet depends urgently on how we manage waste or, better yet, how we avoid it. Plastic, for example, is notoriously wicked because its most typical forms are not biodegradable. Depending on the type, it can take hundreds of years to break down and, even then, microscopic nanoplastics remain. Used in almost everything we make now, it is present everywhere, even in our bodies.

Burtynsky's interest in waste has produced some of his best-known work. The *Shipbreaking* series of the early 2000s, a turning point in his career, is a memorable example. He has since photographed a gargantuan tire dump in California, a massive electronics recycling yard in China, and a vast plastics landfill in Kenya, among other sites. The burying, burning, reshaping and recycling of waste inspires powerful pictures from an artist who shows us the whole cycle of industrial modernity.



### Dandora Landfill #1, Nairobi, Kenya, 2016

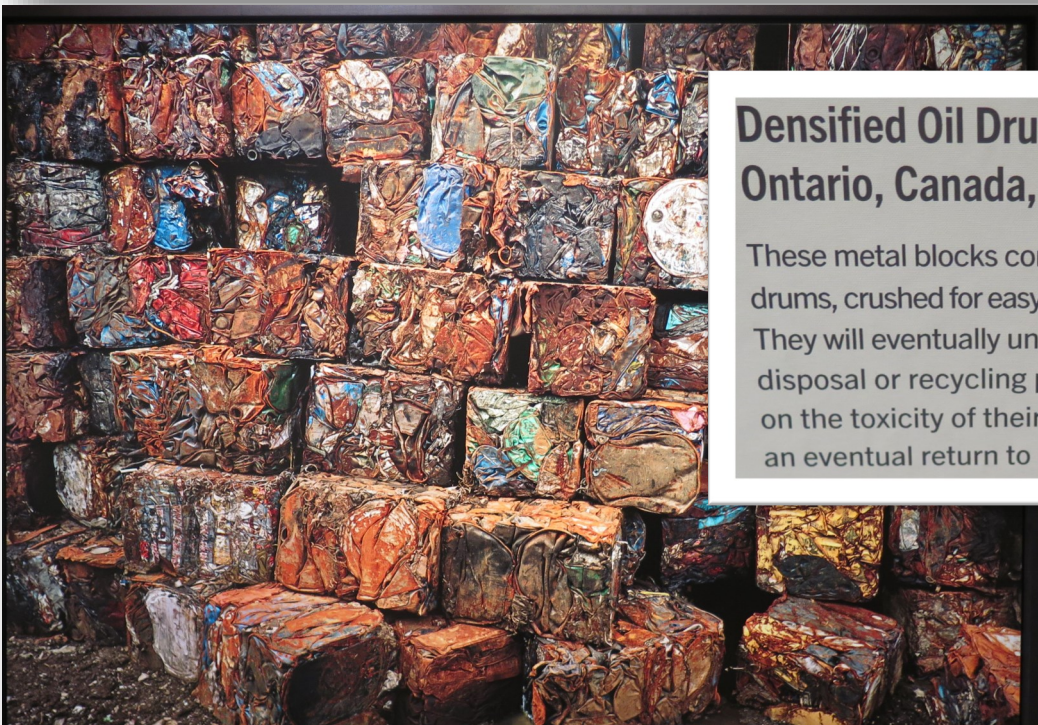
Although this landfill was declared full in 2001 and decommissioned in 2012, it continues to receive over 2,000 tons of waste every day. It is the only source of income for many people living in poverty in Nairobi who come here to scavenge the site for plastics and valuable metals that can be sold to recyclers. But this work comes with a cost. Given the lack of regulation at the landfill, it is heavily polluted by dangerous substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium and a variety of toxic chemicals.





### China Recycling #18, Cankun Aluminum, Xiamen City, Fujian Province, China, 2005

Recycling metal is a lucrative business with high demand. Once collected, waste metals are commonly recovered by melting them down to remove impurities before being reshaped. Versatile aluminium is the most recyclable metal as it can be reused infinitely without losing its quality. China leads the global aluminium industry, from mining and production to recycling.



### Densified Oil Drums #4, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1997

These metal blocks compacted, or “densified” oil drums, crushed for easy storage and transportation. They will eventually undergo a variety of different disposal or recycling processes — depending on the toxicity of their original contents — for an eventual return to use in new forms.





## Photo History



### Oxford Tire Pile #8, Westley, California, USA, 1999

Inspired by an essay he read by John McPhee that mentioned the world's largest tire dump in Westley, Burtynsky travelled here to photograph it for his Oil series. Accumulating at the Oxford site since the 1930s, tires had grown to the tens of millions by the time this picture was taken, while the piles had reached upwards of 30 metres in height. Not long after Burtynsky's visit, the site was struck by lightning causing a massive fire that spewed toxic black smoke hundreds of metres up into the atmosphere for a month.

### Nickel Tailings #34 & #35, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, 1996

This exhibition presents many photographs of tailings and this is among Burtynsky's most famous. It was shot just outside of Sudbury, a Canadian city especially known for its nickel deposits. One of the most mineral-rich areas in the world, the Sudbury mining district has been a major supplier of nickel for well over a century. An illusion of scale, these tailings are actually a small creek rather than a river, and under a metre wide. The vibrant red is oxidised liquid waste.

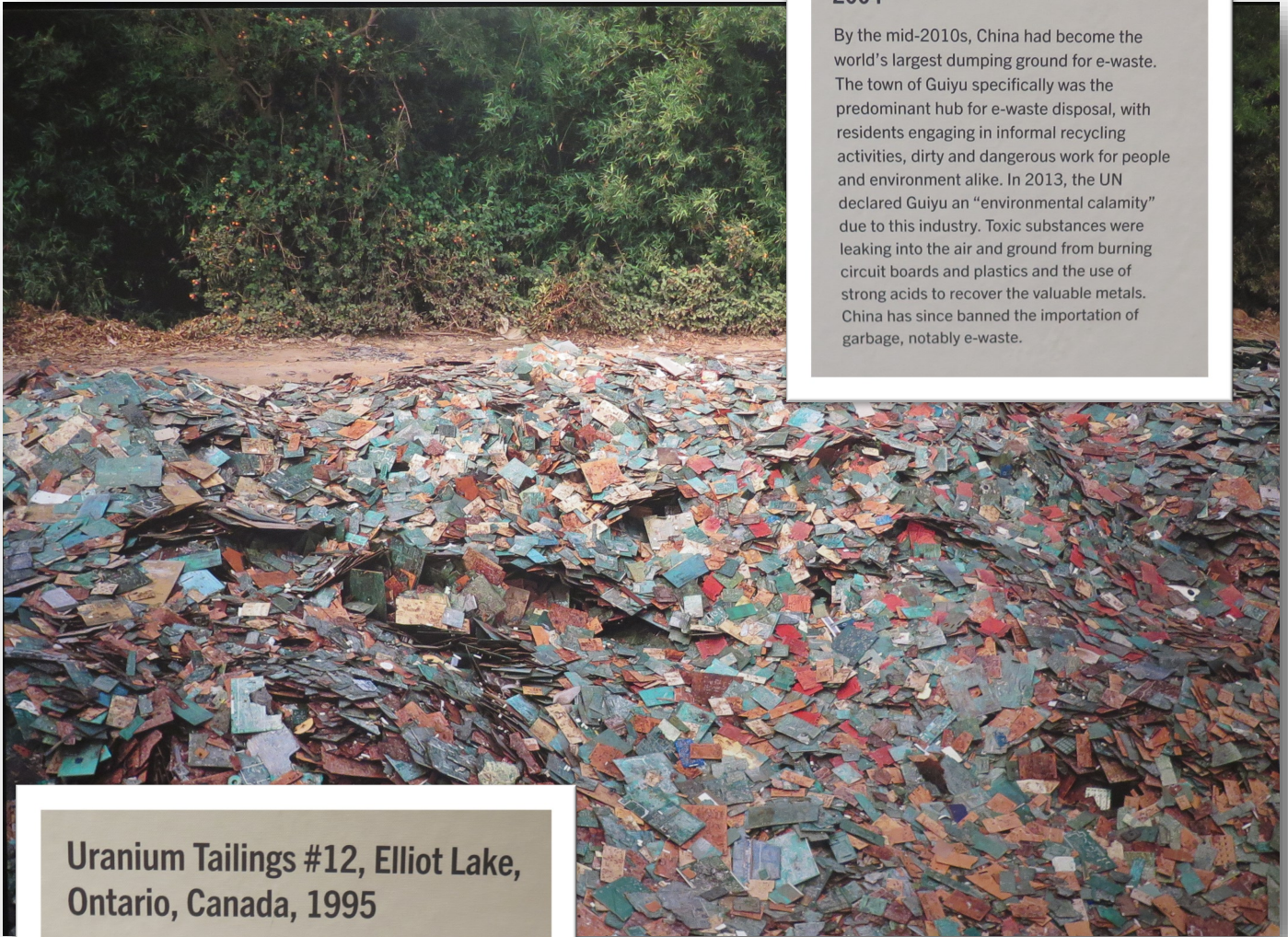






### China Recycling #9, Circuit Boards, Guiyu, Guangdong Province, China, 2004

By the mid-2010s, China had become the world's largest dumping ground for e-waste. The town of Guiyu specifically was the predominant hub for e-waste disposal, with residents engaging in informal recycling activities, dirty and dangerous work for people and environment alike. In 2013, the UN declared Guiyu an "environmental calamity" due to this industry. Toxic substances were leaking into the air and ground from burning circuit boards and plastics and the use of strong acids to recover the valuable metals. China has since banned the importation of garbage, notably e-waste.



### Uranium Tailings #12, Elliot Lake, Ontario, Canada, 1995

Northern Ontario is famous among geologists and other earth scientists for its rich variety of mineral deposits: gold, nickel, copper, silver, cobalt, lithium and many others. Elliot Lake was once known as the uranium capital of the world, though mining operations for the element ended in the late 1990s because of reduced demand. It is now home to 10 decommissioned mines and over 102 million tons of toxic uranium tailings.







**Densified Oil Filters #1, Hamilton,  
Ontario, Canada, 1997**

Oil filters are an essential component of internal combustion engines, such as those used in motorised vehicles that burn fossil fuels. Typically, filters need to be changed, along with the oil, every three to five months. With nearly 1.5 billion cars currently in use globally, that's a lot of filters to discard. Here in the Canadian city of Hamilton, they are crushed — like the oil drums seen previously — before the metal content is separated and recycled. Burtynsky has given this pile a look reminiscent of the palette-knife paintings associated with Abstract Expressionism.

**Edward Burtynsky:** “I have spent over 40 years bearing witness to how modern civilization has dramatically transformed our planet. At this time, the awareness of these issues presented by my large format images has never felt more urgent. I am grateful to be mounting the largest exhibition of my career at Saatchi Gallery in London, UK and I hope the exhibition experience will continue to provide inflection points for diverse conversations on these issues and move us all to a place of positive action.”

Difficult to know what to say after taking  
a slow walk around this amazing  
thought-provoking exhibition. We found  
it left a lasting impression...wow!!





Maybe these 'end of March' shots across the road here in Southgate brings us back down to earth..

